

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2005, in which claims 1 and 3-15 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 13 are amended and claim 3 is canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 4-15 are requested.

Independent claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun in view of Duclos. Sun is described as disclosing a club head having a titanium alloy crown, a sole and a face. Duclos is described as having a club head with a slot on the rear of the club. The Examiner states that it would be obvious to modify the club head of Sun to have a slot on the rear surface of the crown in order to generate higher club head speed. In addition, the Examiner states that it is deemed to be an obvious matter of design choice as to the particular depth of the slot.

Claims 1 and 5 are amended to further define the dimensions of the slot within the club head of the present invention. These dimensions were originally in claim 4, which is now canceled.

The application describes four benefits provided by the slot having the dimensions as described. (Page 8, line 15 - page 9, line 3). First, the slot provides back-weighting towards the rear portion and sole of the club head. The extra weight adjusts the center of gravity to produce the most desirable ball flight. Second, the slot stiffens the crown of the club head resulting in a reduction in club head deformation (the momentary increase in driver height resulting from the impact of a ball upon the face). The slot dampens the energy-robbing effect from deformation resulting in longer and straighter drives. Third, players using a club with the slot of the dimensions described, report a pleasant and solid sensation upon impact with the golf ball. Fourth, the slot improves aerodynamics during the golf swing.

Of these four benefits, Duclos only recognizes the last benefit, aerodynamics. Duclos does not contemplate, teach or suggest that a club as designed therein has any of the other benefits provided by a club as described in present application. Therefore, the particular dimensions of the slot described in the present application do provide specific benefits not contemplated or seen in golf clubs having cavities with larger dimensions, such as that shown in FIG. 6 of Duclos.

In addition, as suggested above, the depth of the cavity shown in FIG. 6 of Duclos is much deeper than the shallow slot of the present invention. Thus, Duclos does not disclose or suggest a slot having the dimensions now claimed in claims 1 and 5.

Independent claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun in view of Duclos and further in view of Hancock, et al. Claim 13 has been amended similarly to claims 1 and 5 with respect to the slot. Thus, claim 13 is not obvious over the combined references.

As amended, claims 1, 5 and 13 are no longer obvious in view of the cited references. In addition, each of the claims that depend from independent claims 1, 5 and 13 are no longer obvious. As such, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The Amendment has placed this application in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

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By: 

David R. Fairbairn, Reg. No. 26,047

THE KINNEY & LANGE BUILDING

312 South Third Street

Minneapolis, MN 55415-1002

Telephone: (612) 339-1863

Fax: (612) 339-6580

DRF/CJB:kmm